

Introduction

The need for a strong and capable public health system became more visible following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The Texas Department of Health (TDH), along with other public health agencies across the U.S., responded to President George W. Bush's call for action to address the current acts and to protect the public against bioterrorism.

TDH also protects the public's health through its health care safety net services. These services include community-based health care services for infants, children, adolescents, and women; assistance for children with special health care needs and their families with to gain access to necessary medical and social services; and preventive dental and medical screenings and treatments for children with Medicaid coverage.

In Texas, TDH must be prepared to respond to all threats to the public's health. We demonstrate our commitment to the health of the people of Texas through our preventive and protective actions and through our support of local public health systems. The *TDH 2003-2007 Strategic Plan for Performance-Based Budgeting* presents TDH's vision, mission and goals for fulfilling its public health commitments. These commitments are shaped by various external and internal factors.

The *TDH 2003-2007 Strategic Plan* consists of four chapters and eight appendices. Highlights include:

- New vision, mission and philosophy statements;
- Strategies for achieving the Health and Human Services Enterprise Strategies;
- TDH's public health priorities for improving the health of Texans and strengthening the public health system;
- TDH budget structure;
- Strategic planning goals in the Public Health Regions;
- A workforce plan to sustain a skilled and competent TDH workforce; and
- Appendices A and G describe TDH's strategic planning process.

